GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1676
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015
DROUGHT AFFECTED DISTRICTS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts affected by drought in the country including Rajasthan, State/UT-wise:

(b) whether there is acute shortage of water and fodder in these districts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend assistance to mitigate the suffering of people of these districts and if so, the details thereof and the time by which such assistance is likely to be provided;

(d) whether any request from the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Union Government regarding inclusion of some districts/areas under Drought Prone Area Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (c) : As per the information of the Drought Management Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India and State Government of Rajasthan, a total of 113 districts in the States of Haryana (21 districts), Uttar Pradesh (44 districts), Karnataka (9 districts), Maharashtra (26 districts) and Rajasthan (13 districts) were declared as drought affected during 2014-15 (as on 28.02.2015). The State Governments are empowered to initiate appropriate relief measures in the wake of loss/damage to crops due to natural calamities from the funds readily available under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The additional financial assistance, over and above the SDRF, is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The assistance approved from the NDRF to Haryana, Karnataka & Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 168.87 crore, Rs. 220.85 crore and Rs. 777.34 crore respectively during current financial year (as on 28.02.2015).

In addition to the above, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) was implementing three area development programmes viz., Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) on watershed basis. These three programmes have been merged into a single modified programme called the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009. The IWMP is being implemented in all States including Rajasthan for minimizing the drought affect and improving the productivity of rainfed/degraded areas. Under IWMP, a total of 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 m. ha have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs.10,868.49 crore have been released as central share for these projects (as on 28.02.2015) to 28 States. Out of this, 1025 IWMP projects covering an area of 5.76 m. ha have been sanctioned in Rajasthan and an amount of Rs.1,448.33 crore have been released as central share. These projects are at various stages of implementation. Under IWMP, the project area is treated scientifically by taking up activities such as field bunds, trench cum bunds, waste weirs, farm ponds, small check dams, nalabunds, percolation tanks, agro-forestry, dry land horticulture, pasture development etc. These activities conserve the natural resources and help to retain in-situ moisture for longer periods, thereby contributing to higher productivity besides recharge of ground water and drought proofing.
Production systems activities are taken up in the treated area to enhance productivity. Income Generating activities are also taken up through Self Help Groups (SHGs) thereby providing employment to the land less people.

(d) & (e): No request from the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh is pending regarding inclusion of some districts / areas under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).